

Subject: L. - Dr. KERSTEN.

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I first got to know KERSTEN in 1942 at Shitomir, Russia, with HITLER. I had already known the name since 1940, as MUELLER (Amt IV) had often spoken about him, and had said 'One day I shall uncover this spy'. I was also aware that he kept a secret dossier on KERSTEN. Personally I had been unable to form an opinion of this man, but had only heard the worst about him from HITLER's adjutants; for example how inquisitive he was, how he stuck his nose into all papers and matters which he could get hold of, the way in which he interrogated everyone, but how one could never get at him, and how, through MUELLER's intervention, he could always get round complaints made against him. This latter contact was the most dangerous of all his contacts. In the course of time KERSTEN had made himself so indispensable to HITLER, that the latter believed he could not longer exist at all without him. Practically the whole of HITLER's entourage were of the same opinion, but most of them were unfavourably disposed towards him on account of his influence on HITLER. Thus I knew that Police Lieutenant Oberstleutnant SUCHANNEK, a particular confidant of HITLER and later KALTENBRUNNER, reported KERSTEN's every movement to HITLER. This much I knew, therefore, when I first met Dr. KERSTEN.

My state of health was so bad at the time, after almost 2 years severe liver and gall-bladder trouble, that I really thought that if matters did not improve, I would die, especially as I was continually losing weight. HITLER had arranged all sorts of different cures for me, but none were of any avail. On one occasion, during an evening meal, when I could eat nothing, HITLER said: 'This evening I am going to offer you my last cure; KERSTEN will examine you.' Later, with mixed feelings, I found myself confronted by Dr. KERSTEN, a man who was rather more corpulent than the average, who had a pleasant face and a kindly manner, which is often the way with fat people. He massaged and kneaded my stomach with his stubby fingers, and caused a certain amount of momentary pain, but I already felt better after the first treatment and after the fifth visit I found that the pain had subsided for the first time. After this I was let down by him at irregular intervals, but whenever the opportunity presented itself. I became dependent on this treatment and, considering HITLER's case, must say that the same applied to him. I believe that HITLER suffered from cancer of the bowel and that KERSTEN was the only and only person who would relieve him of pain, through his treatment. That was the real reason for the influence which KERSTEN possessed, since HITLER lived in fear of losing this cure. That KERSTEN was able to say things to him which others could not even have dared to think.

As a patient, I was devoted to KERSTEN, and after our first interview, he found confidence in me and we openly discussed persons, affairs and all matters which we saw in the light of our own perspectives. KERSTEN invariably had a good deal of news to talk about, as he treated many important officials, ministers, and high party leaders. He always complained about them, calling them corrupt and bad characters. In his opinion the exception was HITLER, and considered that this was the reason why he managed to carry on, but then there were times when, in this case also, he despaired when he saw the stupid individuals with whom HITLER had surrounded himself. When he had to treat under HITLER's orders - he could only show amazement and shake his head. Then, in an entirely private manner, I was precisely informed by KERSTEN of what was going on around HITLER. He helped me in a most decisive manner to ward off the continually ensuing attacks against me, which came from all directions. There was a silent arrangement between us that I would help him in his position with HITLER and other persons. Both open and concealed attacks were continually being made against him. He warded off the open attacks personally with HITLER, but came to me about the subversive work of MUELLER, and later of KALTENBRUNNER. They intended - at least I know quite definitely that it was MUELLER's intention - to involve him whatever happened in an espionage case against the Rechtsanwalt LANGBEHN. I forewarned KERSTEN. It was also obvious that the case of LANGBEHN had been used to make a charge to HITLER to the effect that I was suspected of espionage in favour of England.

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Actually I had got to know LANGBEHN, through KERSTEN, in his flat, and had two meetings with him concerning the muddled foreign policy and spoke about a possible upset between the Wehrmacht and the SS. The contact between us remained on a friendly basis. I assisted him in his journeys abroad, when he endeavoured to put me in touch with contacts in the light of our talks. In the event, therefore, of a malevolent interpretation being placed on the results of an interrogation of LANGBEHN, I could be inculpated. Thus, through KERSTEN and LANGBEHN I became involved in an action concerning the releasing of 7 Swedes, who had been sentenced, - 5 of them had been sentenced to death penalty. I was able to conclude the action favourably for Sweden after over two years work, in spite of all the difficulties which were put in my way from all quarters, i.e. RIBBENTROP and KAUFHUBER. Avoiding all personal interest, I used this case to improve Swedish-German relations, and in order to bridge the gap towards the Western Powers, through Sweden. LANGBEHN broke away when he realised that there was no money to be got out of the affair. At first I was not at all clear what were KERSTEN's interests in the affair, but soon perceived that he was endeavouring, owing to the improved relationship with Sweden, to leave Germany and start building up a new practice over there.

In 1943 already we discussed the possibility of Germany losing the war, and how we both had hopes that, through revolutionary methods which HIMMLER as the strongest man in Germany would carry out, a total loss to Germany might be avoided by relinquishing the Occupied Territories. KERSTEN's main consideration was a material one rather than a political ideal, since as far as he was concerned, a total loss to Germany would signify to him, the loss of his German estates. In these matters he was just like a child, primitive, and sometimes quite unscrupulous, but without noticing this himself. His departure from Germany was regarded by HIMMLER and KERSTEN's enemies in Germany as a serious problem, especially when he returned from Sweden to fetch away his wife and three children. Of course he had gone all out to achieve this, and finally he had to go so far with HIMMLER as to give him the alternative of receiving further regular treatment, or not receiving any at all. He had promised HIMMLER to return from Sweden every four months to attend to his treatment. HIMMLER eventually acceded to his demands, as his physical condition evidently did not permit any other solution to the problem. I gave KERSTEN my full support over this period. I spoke to him about our personal relations, and my gratitude for the treatment he had given me, and promised to lend him my full support to get out of Germany, since he was very much afraid that he would not get away in good time. From an intelligence point of view I did not draw up any specific plan with him. I knew that, later on, when I saw him again he would relate to me all manner of things which he had experienced, just in the same way as he had done in Germany.

His first trip to Sweden, which was arranged with the help of Swedish industrialists, (via a preliminary permit allowing him to practice,) took place in the autumn of 1943. In the winter of 1943 I had to go to Sweden to carry out negotiations concerning the seven Swedes and also because I had arranged with HIMMLER for a number of Norwegian students to be returned. The latter affair, however, did not completely succeed, since during my absence from Berlin, HIMMLER was not free to negotiate owing to an aggravation of the situation which had taken place through the Press. On this occasion I was treated by KERSTEN in Stockholm. At first we discussed family affairs, our wives used to see each other from time to time, then we spoke about all his troubles in Stockholm, permit to work, authority to reside there, and the difficulty in procuring living quarters, etc. He regarded Germany's position as even worse than before and urgently advised me to start negotiations with HIMMLER off my own bat.

He told me that, through an old Swedish friend of his named GRAFFMANN, he had met and started treating again an old American patient of his, named HEWITT. This man had evidently been sent to Europe by ROOSEVELT in order to make a special study of the German situation. This man had originally been married to a VANDEBILT and was now married to a HUGHESON. It was said moreover that he had influence with Mrs. ROOSEVELT. This information was very tempting for me, but I did not know how I could represent the matter in Germany and how I could conclude matters successfully. KERSTEN could not even begin to realize that this was a big problem for me. I mention this fact purely in order to indicate how harmlessly KERSTEN was involved in these matters. In addition there was the difficulty that HELLER had given me express instructions not to use KERSTEN for my affairs (i.e. Intelligence), since he feared that through KERSTEN's innocent role, a compromising situation would arise for Lockheim, whereby in some way or another he would lose KERSTEN's services. In view of what has been said above it is clear that this opinion of HELLER's really had to be taken seriously. For this very reason FREISER was not to allow himself to be seen in the company of Germans.

In spite of everything I decided to avail myself of a talk, and I met HEWITT on two occasions, once in HEWITT's hotel and, on another occasion, in the private apartment of one of my colleagues, one FINKE. In all the talks lasted two and a half hours. The arrangement made was that HEWITT wanted to return to the States as quickly as possible, in order to ascertain in talks in Washington (he did not say with whom the talks would take place in Washington) whether any interest existed, namely to save Germany from threatened ruin, to strengthen the Waffen S.S., by this organization taking over, and withdrawing the greater part of the army from the West, and thereby ending the war against the Western Powers. HELLER would have to guarantee all agreements concluded and also the releasing of all Western Territory. Questions regarding France and the Eastern areas occupied by Germany which were again to become independent would still have to be discussed. In this connexion no elaborate views were expressed. We were both in the same position; neither of us knew that would be said about these matters in our respective countries. I came to an arrangement with HEWITT about the text of an announcement for a Swedish paper, in case he had any success with the plan. This announcement never appeared. Later I heard from KERSTEN, and his friend GRAFFMANN, that HEWITT had incurred ROOSEVELT's displeasure. Personally I thought that I could get HELLER so enthusiastic that he would at last use this opportunity to negotiate within Germany. If he had taken this decision, I would have been in a position to have made concrete proposals to HEWITT. In view of HEWITT's weak political position I considered some preliminary action on the part of Germany necessary, in order to put him in a position to negotiate. HELLER was afraid; in his uncertainty he discussed the events with KALTENBRUNNER, and this in itself resulted in matters being turned down. HELLER personally explained to me that the proposal meant the breaking up of the unity of the State control, and that he could not bear responsibility for that; this was also KALTENBRUNNER's opinion, who had issued a strong caution. Finally I received a serious warning from KALTENBRUNNER regarding my actions and for having involved KERSTEN. (This was obviously KALTENBRUNNER's view). In the event of HEWITT returning with concrete proposals, he was to go to Lisbon, as this was an easier place to establish contact. I gave him FREISER as a contact address there.

KERSTEN had nothing to do with the affair apart from establishing the first contact in Sweden. He had accompanied HEWITT to FINKE's apartment, where he made the acquaintance of the latter. In order to avoid mentioning names in any correspondence, it was arranged with HEWITT that he would be known as SIEGEL; KERSTEN as 'Der Dicke' or S5. Thus, arising out of the HEWITT affair, KERSTEN received a cover name, which was for my personal use only. I had always called him the 'Guten-Dicke', on account of the way in which he had helped me. I heard nothing further about the whole affair, nor did I hear personally from HEWITT. This was the one and only contact which could be regarded as a contact to ROOSEVELT, in spite of the fact that KERSTEN was continually boasting about his extensive circle of patients in the States. []

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After only a short acquaintanceship, KERSTEN related that he knew a Chinese woman, through his former circle of acquaintances in Holland, whom he would very much like to have married. The aged managing director, DIEHN, who had long been a patient of his, had dissuaded him from this marriage. KERSTEN invariably carried a picture of the woman in his pocket. After his second stay in Sweden he told me that he had seen this woman once again in Stockholm and that she was then a Mrs. KOU and was continually travelling between Chungking, Moscow and London. He maintained that he was still carrying on a love affair with her. He also related that she had also had access to STALIN and was on particularly close terms with the Chinese Military Attache in Moscow. She had told KERSTEN that a major Russian offensive, with Schwerpunkt (main effort of concentration) in the centre and the north, would shortly take place. This sounded to me all rather fantastic, and at first I considered this to be one of KERSTEN's many fantasies, since after an hour's treatment by him, one could not make out, from all that he said, what was bombast and exaggeration embellished by a third party or what was pure fantasy. I know, however, that I attributed particular importance to this statement of his, in order to check, at least once, whether he had also related this to HIMMLER. This was actually the case, as two days later, HIMMLER enquired whether I had heard the Russian story from KERSTEN, and what was to be done about it. I suggested that KERSTEN should be questioned again precisely, and in particular that he should be asked to clarify the statement he had made concerning the figures. Actually he had a tiny piece of paper from which he read out the alleged figures of the divisions which were in readiness. He had destroyed the paper already, so that I had to try and reconstruct the figures from my memory, as I had not made any notes after the conclusion of my treatment at KERSTEN's hands. I passed the report on to the Generalstab, who considered it interesting as a confirmatory report on many points. On this occasion I had another conversation with KERSTEN, who had related to FINKE, whom he was using to help him find quarters in Stockholm that the Russians were forming a new Army with about two million men, taken from industries, and whose places had been replaced by two million Chinese workmen from Chungking. As this was the first report to be received in this connection, I wanted to find out the precise origin of the report. After a few moment's consideration he mentioned the names of Mrs. KOU and GRAFFIANN, as being his source. Both the Friends Heere Ost of the Generalstab and my department, dealing with the collating and analysis of reports, regarded this information as unlikely and turned it down as deception material.

KERSTEN was with HIMMLER in Rome, I believe at the end of 1942. KERSTEN treated a number of Italians, apart from CLANO I do not recall any other names. What touched KERSTEN most was the fact that, under HIMMLER's instructions, he was not permitted to receive any monetary reward from Italians. In fact, he was so short of cash there, that he was extremely pleased that I was able to exchange secretly for him the equivalent in RM. of Lire 2,000, although I am convinced that he had managed to get something out of HIMMLER. After his return he related the following to me:-

He could not get on with the Italians at all, they were too stupid and overbearing. CLANO was definitely corrupt, he hated the Germans, in particular RIBBENTROP, but recognised the many mistakes the Italians made. By coincidence he (KERSTEN) had met a former Finnish girl friend in Rome who until quite recently had been the confidential friend of the Pope. This person told him that in the Pope's opinion the Russians had enormous reserves of men and that Germany could never win the war. KERSTEN had related these facts to HIMMLER, who as I already knew, did not believe in them. I did not bother myself any further with the matter; I knew that HIMMLER was informed, and moreover I considered the matter rather fantastic, not so much as regards what the Pope thought, but as regards the story of the girl friend etc. On a later occasion I was able to establish the fact, that on the contrary, HIMMLER did believe in the genuineness of this contact.

Perhaps it is only right to mention, at this stage, something about KERSTEN's relations to women. He was always maintaining that he was one of the most virile men that ever existed, and that was his secret with women, who did not seem to notice his corpulence at all. This representation of himself was rather too grotesque, but nevertheless there must have been some truth in his assertion, as he had a large number of female acquaintances, but mostly rather aged women. This much I gathered from his secretary, who moreover was a sister of my own secretary. KERSTEN personally related to me on one occasion that this was the reason for his intimacy with a Chinese, namely Mrs. KOU.

He once introduced me to a Frau DIERICH, as a person with whom he was associating, with his wife's permission, whose husband had been sentenced to a few years imprisonment, with hard labour, on account of treason. KERSTEN succeeded in introducing Frau DIERICH to HITLER, under the pretext that the SS were endeavouring to confiscate her small property. KERSTEN succeeded in preventing this from happening, and in addition HITLER arranged for her husband's release and reinstatement, and he was posted to a Waffen SS unit.

Because of his large circle of patients and acquaintances KERSTEN received a large number of requests of a humanitarian nature which he attended to free of charge. Together with HITLER's personal secretary Dr. BRANDT we worked on these matters. BRANDT readily supported KERSTEN and myself in these matters, he always wanted to help us but he was too close to HITLER and for this reason he had in some things a more cautious view or standards. KERSTEN corresponded freely with him. This correspondence dealt with requests of a humanitarian nature such as employment of SS leaders and other patients sent by HITLER. KERSTEN also had various privileges (petrol for his car etc.). There was also the question of his financial relations with HITLER. About this I have no following either from KERSTEN himself, HITLER or others:-

KERSTEN was a Finn (he was German but had taken Finnish nationality after the war) and was at first employed as personal physician to the Queen of Holland and from his international practice, that on the advice of HITLER he had been able to buy Gut Herzwalde in the neighbourhood of his birthplace in the Mark. After he moved to Germany in 1940 (he was interned for 2 weeks) his financial agreement with HITLER was apparently as follows (the fact that he refused an offer to go to America was also taken into account):-

A lump sum for his successful treatment (I heard from BRANDT once it was 100,000 RM) in compensation for the American contract which he had refused and also a large piece of forest land near Herzwalde. WOLFF, formerly chief of Staff to HITLER, is according to better informant on this. WOLFF and KERSTEN were very good friends. Still the former allowed a kidney operation which was performed by Dr. KERN, KERSTEN's greatest rival for HITLER's favour. KERN also convinced WOLFF that KERSTEN was entirely to blame, saying that KERSTEN had managed to come into the kidney. Although this was nonsense, WOLFF believed it and from that moment hated KERSTEN. When KERSTEN decided to leave Germany he induced HITLER to allow him to take his furniture to Stockholm and also a part of 20,000 RM to start a new practice in Sweden, being his fees for treatment during his stay in Germany. KERSTEN received, on HITLER's orders in 1943, the first instalment, 12,000 RM through the secretary of FINK at his boarding house. The next two instalments were paid in 1944 after negotiations with HITLER when the latter gave me the authority. The payments always took place in this way; KERSTEN never wanted to take the money with him because of the Swedish currency regulations. KERSTEN seems on these occasions to have given the secretary letters to HITLER on various subjects such as his personal future, his estate, release of Swedes, Jews, Finns and Norwegians. I have never seen this correspondence. Communications through FINK to me were used on 2 or 3 occasions during the REWITT case when FINK told me that REWITT had not left as he could not get a plane, and once also over the story of the new Russian Army of 2,000,000 men. It is possible that other information came in this way to me, but it was of no importance and I would remember it. In any case it was not a regular channel of communication as it would have been completely at variance with my relations with KERSTEN.

Once before he left Germany in 1944 I asked KERSTEN whilst he was giving me treatment to keep his ears open and find out if there was anything in the rumours that STALIN was ill. Some weeks later he let me know through his secretary that STALIN was quite well. The communication took place over a private telephone on his estate using a code word. He spoke on this frequently to his secretary always about humanitarian and private matters. Chiefly he used it for the question of exit visas (from HITLER) for Germans, foreigners, releases and prolongation of visas. KERSTEN was not to take upon himself the onus of getting intelligence, but confine himself to his humanitarian missions; this he very largely did. I know this because at the finish all the work came back on my secretary, although KERSTEN's secretary settled many things direct with Dr. BRANDT.

The Dutch businessman dealing in Nitrates can only have been General Direktor Fritz DIEM who was for a long time head of the Kalisynnikate. KERSTEN had been treating him for 10 years and was idolised by him for his message. DIEM was not Dutch although he had business in Holland. DIEM died a couple of years ago.

The 'Bibelforschern' affair lasted a long time. When I was on KERSTEN's estate for the first time, I saw that all the staff were convicts' dress and asked what this meant. KERSTEN and his wife then gave a long lecture on the 'Bibelforschern' from which it became clear that they were the cheapest of all domestic servants who performed their duties faithfully. They refused all work connected with the war. KERSTEN later arranged that all male and female members of the sect working for him should be released with the right to wear ordinary clothes. I arranged through HITLER for one to come to my house, who worked faithfully until the end and who loved my children. MUELLER and KUEHL were very angry with KERSTEN, MUELLER openly declaring that he suspected that KERSTEN in this way had built up an organisation to pass abroad information to the 'Bibelforschern' in the concentration camps, as KERSTEN's 'Bibelforschern' had uninterrupted contact with those remaining in the camps. Suspicion increased when KERSTEN took one of the females of the sect with him to Stockholm and entrusted the management of the estate to his secretary, a so-called sister of the 'Bibelforschern'.

During KERSTEN's penultimate visit in November 1944 he was determined to take yet another female 'Bibelforschern' with him to Stockholm, a dressmaker by trade (I knew this from his secretary). With the object of getting HITLER's consent to the latter of the world-wide importance of the sect and explained that HITLER could get them all on his side if he would consent to give a change in their treatment. Humane, reasonable treatment, no more obligation to do war work - the news of such a volte face would be spread throughout the world by KERSTEN's female 'Bibelforschern' in Stockholm, together with those members of the sect in Sweden - this would have good results both for HITLER and Germany. At the same time the movement would gather strength and thus armament production would be hindered; this last was pure conjecture. HITLER was however so impressed by the suggestion that he spoke to me at length on the matter as if success was certain, and the only difficulty in the way was the opposition of KALTENBRUNNER and MUELLER. MUELLER telephoned in my presence to KALTENBRUNNER, outlined the plan, and arranged a meeting with KERSTEN and myself. KALTENBRUNNER, KERSTEN and myself met at the former's residence in Berlin. The atmosphere was cold, KALTENBRUNNER stiff as a poker and KERSTEN not sure of himself. After a short time KALTENBRUNNER gave way and warmly approved the plan and promised the treatment of the 'Bibelforschern' would be carried out on MUELLER's authority as HITLER had ordered. KERSTEN also got the exit visa for his 'Bibelforschern' (the one KERSTEN had had in view could not travel owing to illness, whilst the other was not available). As far as I can remember nothing else of interest transpired at this meeting. KERSTEN spoke of the constantly deteriorating relations between Germany and Sweden, of the mishandling of the Norwegian question, that the deserter RIEDL had given everything away that he knew, and other bits of information in general. The next day KALTENBRUNNER gave as promised the directions to MUELLER. KERSTEN had thus succeeded in preparing

the way for a complete change of policy towards the Selbstschern. When I think back on KERSTEN's motives, I must accent that KERSTEN was not acting with a view to propaganda or sabotage. The whole thing was either due to his optimism, and what I think is also possible that someone in Sweden had influenced him on the problems of humanity, and that he together with KALTENBRUNNER had to find their cover in order to put the matter through with HITLER and KALTENBRUNNER without reference to HITLER. As far as I know there was no reaction abroad and it could not be expected.

This picture of KERSTEN would not be complete without a host of details which could be of importance. I suggested that KERSTEN should tell me when personal attacks on me were made to HITLER. His behavior was always correct. His counsel was a good point of view between us that we spoke of things together quite openly, how to work and free ourselves from the party and its consequences. We both saw in HITLER a man with sufficient power to make things changing for the better. I think that HITLER was interested in astrology and that he knew a class of priests in Hamburg called WILHELM. He wanted to introduce me to WILHELM. I went into the game especially as his name was already known to HITLER. It was not this was a loose sort of connection for it would be necessary to be seen. It then occurred to me, although I knew little of astrology, that the affair had possibilities from the occult point of view. I met WILHELM for the first time in his Berlin apartment. We met often on Kersten's estate and Kersten tried to influence HITLER astrologically to get him to make a change in the Government, the party and eventually to depose HITLER. The work started in 1943-1944 began to wane and KERSTEN was removed from HITLER which made it much more difficult. Owing to pressure of work I could not take as much interest in the affair as I would have liked, although I never ceased to realize the possibility of these occult affairs. KERSTEN at the start lost his support, but retired later from the affair and was also away. On his visit to Berlin 1945 KERSTEN aided by me worked on HITLER's questions of humanity, to adopt air lines of life and to spread his position in relation to KALTENBRUNNER and HITLER. KERSTEN was reminded of his former praise and his authority was obtained for KERSTEN TORCH was sent from Stockholm. KERSTEN brought HITLER personally in touch with the Japanese, acting on behalf of the Japanese had offered Roosevelt at Yalta a secret compromise for the ending of the war. KERSTEN had been told that under certain circumstances the proposals could be of use. The Japanese representatives at the conference were not informed.

Further information was given that 6,000,000 Chinese were employed in the German armaments industry. The information was full and cleverly presented. I was astonished at this information, but in my opinion Japan was not of great importance to Germany. HITLER was apparently of a different opinion as he ordered KALTENBRUNNER to discuss the matter with RIBBENTROP and HITLER, which he did before this, however. I had given my opinion that the information was of no importance and probably not reliable. KALTENBRUNNER told me some days later that HITLER and RIBBENTROP had found the information interesting, but refused to credit it. I have searched the matter in the same sense with my staff. KERSTEN gave as his source his Chinese contact.

I then saw KERSTEN again on the 19th April 1945, not as had been planned by KERSTEN, but with LASOW when the former was on a visit to HITLER. The information was given to LASOW and HITLER on the night of the 20/21 April. In a practical form were no longer possible, but it finished a period in my life and the end of my attempts to solve the Jewish problems in a humane manner.

I saw KERSTEN for the last time in Stockholm before flying to Frankfurt. He was treating me. He has a good practice. KERSTEN had a valid Finnish passport. He was once in Finland with HITLER in 1943, through the latter's visit to that country and a town of the front it was hoped to encourage Finnish morale. I never had an opportunity to discuss with HITLER the result and it was only later in Stockholm that KERSTEN told me that HITLER's moderation had borne no fruit and that on HITLER's authority he had promised Finland the whole of N. Sweden.